
Public Libraries

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The public library offers free and equal access to services and resources to assist the people of Montgomery County in finding ideas and information to sustain and enrich their lives.

The Department of Public Libraries provides library services throughout the County in 21 full service libraries, which range in size from Gaithersburg Library [35,315 gross square feet (gsf)] to the leased storefront at Poolesville (6,250 gsf). In addition, there are special facilities: Noyes Children's Library, the Special Needs Library, and the Corrections Library in the Montgomery County Correction Facility in Clarksburg. Mobile Services, which operates out of the Silver Spring Library, has one van that provides library services primarily to children.

The larger libraries—Bethesda, Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Wheaton—are open 59 hours per week. Fifteen libraries – Aspen Hill, Chevy Chase, Damascus, Davis, Fairland, Germantown, Kensington Park, Little Falls, Long Branch, Olney, Potomac, Quince Orchard, Silver Spring, Twinbrook, and White Oak are open 54 to 56 hours per week, with schedules tailored to meet local community needs. The Poolesville Library is open 46 hours per week; eight libraries (Bethesda, Fairland, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Olney, Rockville, Silver Spring, and Wheaton) are open Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. during the school year.

Collections range from more than 200,000 volumes at the largest library to 85,000 at the smallest library. Collection size for each library is determined by user demand and the physical size of the building.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Substantial completion of the Germantown Library in 2006
- Substantial completion of the Rockville Library in 2006
- Renovation of the Gaithersburg, Olney, and Wheaton Libraries
- Begin design to renovate the Davis and Potomac Libraries

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Barbara Norland 240.777.0030 of the Department of Public Libraries or Anita Aryeetey of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2784 for more information regarding this department's capital budget.

CAPITAL PROGRAM REVIEW

Five ongoing projects and two new projects, totaling \$71.4 million, comprise the six-year capital improvements program for Public Libraries. This represents an increase of \$2.2 million, or 3.2 percent, from the amended FY05-10 program. The cost increase results from expenditures previously programmed beyond the six year program progressing into the FY07-12 period, and the addition of two new library renovations.

The Public Libraries FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program is funded primarily by general obligation bonds. Current revenue is used for the acquisition of library materials at new and expanded libraries.

The schedule of library construction and renovation is derived from the MCPL Strategic Facilities Plan – 2004 to 2009 (March 2004).

